

NewsBites

Dental Newsletter for High Schools & Colleges

Issue 6, March 2011

All eligible children are entitled to free dental care up to their 18th birthday. Not all dentists in Auckland provide the free service so it is important that adolescents attend a clinic of a contracting dentist or a mobile dental provider. To locate a contracting dentist please give us a call on 0800 TALK TEETH



Useful Information

Adolescent Dental

0800 TALK TEETH

0800 825 583

Fax: 09 839 0566

Private Bag 93-115

Henderson

*Auckland Regional Dental
Service website*

www.ards.co.nz



Word of Mouth

Welcome to our 6th annual adolescent oral health newsletter.

2010 was a yet again a very busy year for the Auckland Regional Dental Service. We are seeing some real progress and there are now more adolescents than ever attending a dentist annually for their dental treatment.

We have seen a huge increase from the 42% in 2004 and we are expecting utilisation to reach in the region of almost 70% for 2010. Although this is a significant increase there are still approximately 30,000 eligible adolescents in the Auckland Region not attending a dentist for their annual check-up. The majority of these children are at High School.

We are now able to obtain data from the Ministry of Health that gives us an indication of how many adolescents at each school attend for an annual check-up. There are some schools that have an excellent utilisation rate, with room for improvement in others. It is apparent from this data that those schools that receive an on site mobile dental provider have a far higher dental utilisation rate than those schools that don't. If you would like to know where your school ranks with regard to how many of your students are accessing annual dental treatment please contact us.

The Ministry of Health has set a national target of 85% utilisation to be achieved by the end of 2013. It currently supports the implementation of services that will allow service delivery to be taken as close as possible to client under the mantra "Better, sooner, more convenient" with respect to primary care services. Mobile services obviously play a large role in taking services to the client group.

By accepting an on site mobile provider at your school should go a long way to improving the oral health of your students. The mobiles are staffed with registered professionals who have a lot of experience working with adolescent patients. They work very closely with schools to ensure minimal disruption to the school timetable and provide a convenient service to Auckland's adolescent population.



0800 TALK TEETH

For all dental enquiries for children from 0-18 years please call 0800 TALK TEETH/0800 825 583.

We also have a website at www.ards.co.nz where you can find all the up to date information about Auckland Regional Dental service including a list of the dental contractors who provide the funded dental care for adolescents. If you require any other information please give us a call.



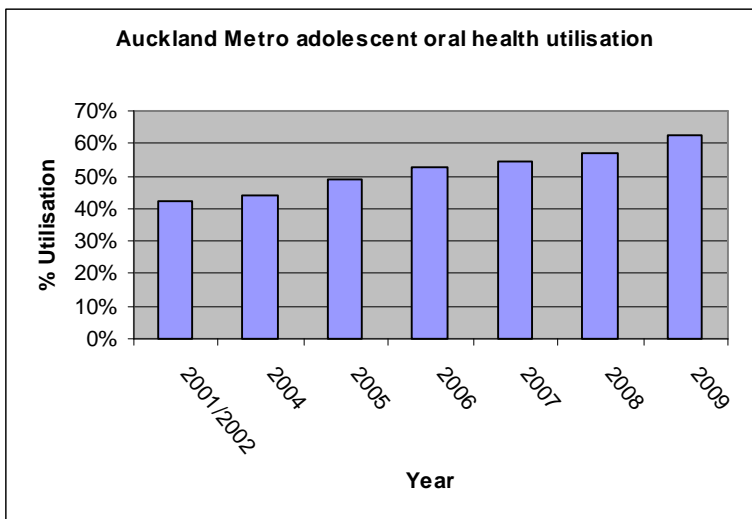
Welcome

The adolescent oral health co-ordination service is delighted to have a new Adolescent oral health promoter on board, Kiri Dargaville. Kiri recently graduated from The University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Health Science and we look forward to having her as part of our team.



My name is Kiri Dargaville; I am the Adolescent Oral Health Promoter for Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB). Linking adolescents back into our dental services requires a collective approach – at present I have been working with a number of Youth health organisations, Alternative Education providers, Community Organisations and Public Health Organisations within Counties Manukau to promote our service and reach out to those families/adolescents who have become detached from mainstream education and health services. In addition, the CMDHB Oral Health team has had a presence at several events across the CMDHB region over the last few months - to profile our services to both our preschool and adolescent populations.

Adolescent Oral Health Utilisation



Adolescent oral health utilisation is making a steady increase over the years. The graph shows you the progress that is being made and how many adolescents are actually attending for their dental appointments on an annual basis. 2010 data is still being collated but we expect it to be in the 70% region.

This increase we believe is mainly due to the much improved Year 8 handover process, where we now successfully transfer 100% Year 8 children to adolescent dental care, the improved public awareness through TV campaigns, websites etc and the increase in the number of schools who accept the on-site services of a mobile dental provider.

Tips for a healthy Smile

1. Brush twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.
2. Floss at least once a day
3. Have regular dental check-ups.
4. Choose healthy snacks.
5. Drink water or milk.
6. Wear a mouth guard when playing contact sports



Call 0800 TALK TEETH
for all your adolescent
dental service enquiries

Teenagers go through lots of changes - starting high school, starting work, leaving home and growing up. Oral health and looking after teeth is even more important during these years. Remember to encourage teenagers to continue with regular dental check-ups, which are free up to their 18th birthday. They should carry on brushing twice a day; the most important time to brush is at night.